

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 21-51 are in this case. Claims 18 and 21-23 have been rejected under § 102(e). Claims 1-13, 24-35, 38-41, 44, 45 and 47-51 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 14-17, 36, 37, 42, 43 and 46 have been objected to. Independent claims 18, 47 and 51 and dependent claims 11, 13-15, 21-24, 33, 35-37, 41, 42, 46 and 48-50 have been canceled. Independent claims 1, 25 and 39 and dependent claims 12, 16, 17, 34, 38 and 44 have been amended. New independent claims 52-54 have been added.

### **§ 102(e) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139**

The Examiner has rejected claims 18 and 21-23 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki, US Patent No. 6,601,139 (henceforth, “Suzuki ‘139”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 18 and 21-23 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

### **§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 39-41, 44, 47, 50 and 51 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al., US Patent No. 5,815,706 (henceforth, “Stewart et al. ‘706”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 41, 47, 50 and 51 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

As discussed below, claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 11, 13 and 14. It follows that claims 2-6 that depend therefrom also are allowable.

As discussed below, claim 39 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 41 and 42. It follows that claims 40 and 44 that depend therefrom also are allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in view of Solhjell ‘082**

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 45, 48 and 49 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in view of Solhjell, US Patent No. 5,542,082 (henceforth, “Solhjell ‘082”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 48 and 49 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

As discussed below, claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 11, 13 and 14. It follows that claim 7 that depends therefrom also is allowable.

As discussed below, claim 39 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 41 and 42. It follows that claim 45 that depends therefrom also is allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in view of Ma ‘735**

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in view of Ma, US Patent

Application Publication No. 2004/0042735 henceforth, "Ma '735"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed below, claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 11, 13 and 14. It follows that claims 8-10 that depend therefrom also are allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki '139 in view of Ma '735**

The Examiner has rejected claims 24-27, 29, 31 and 32 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki '139 in view of Ma '735. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 24 has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

As discussed below, claim 25 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 33, 35 and 36. It follows that claims 26, 27, 29, 31 and 32 that depend therefrom also are allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki '139 in view of Ma '735 and further in view of Solhjell '082**

The Examiner has rejected claim 28 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki '139 in view of Ma '735 and further in view of Solhjell '082. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed below, claim 25 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 33, 35 and 36. It follows that claim 28 that depends therefrom also is allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in  
view of Gene ‘751**

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-13 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Stewart et al. ‘706 and further in view of Gene, US Patent No. 6,757,751 (henceforth, “Gene ‘751”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 13 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

Claim 12 has been rendered allowable by amending this claim to depend from new claim 52 as discussed below.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Ma ‘735 and further in view of Gene  
‘751**

The Examiner has rejected claims 33-35 and 38 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Ma ‘735 and further in view of Gene ‘751. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 33 and 35 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

Claim 34 has been rendered allowable by amending this claim to depend from new claim 53 as discussed below.

As discussed below, claim 25 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 33, 35 and 36. It follows that claim 38 that depends therefrom also is allowable.

**§ 103(a) Rejections – Suzuki ‘139 in view of Ma ‘735 and further in view of**

**Zimmer et al. ‘968**

The Examiner has rejected claim 30 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ‘139 in view of Ma ‘735 and further in view of Zimmer, US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0021968. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed below, claim 25 has been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 33, 35 and 36. It follows that claim 30 that depends therefrom also is allowable.

**Objections**

The Examiner has objected to claims 14-17, 36, 37, 42, 43 and 46. Although the Examiner did not state explicitly his reasons for objecting to 14-17, 36, 37, 42, 43 and 46, Applicant presumes that the Examiner has objected to claims 14-17, 36, 37, 42, 43 and 46 as being based on rejected base claims, and that claims 14-17, 36, 37, 42, 43 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, because the Examiner did not explicitly reject these claims.

Claim 14 now has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 11, 13 and 14. Correspondingly, claims 11, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 52. Correspondingly, claim 15 has been canceled and claims 12, 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 52.

Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 25 to include the limitations of claims 33, 35 and 36. Correspondingly, claims 33, 35 and

36 have been canceled and claim 38 has been amended to depend directly from claim 25.

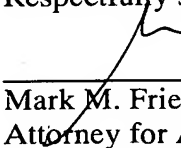
Claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 53. Correspondingly, claim 37 has been canceled and claim 34 has been amended to depend from claim 53.

Claim 42 has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 39 to include the limitations of claims 41 and 42. Correspondingly, claims 41 and 42 have been canceled and claims 43 and 44 have been amended to depend directly from claim 39.

Claim 46 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 54.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 25, 39 and 52-54, and hence dependent claims 2-10, 12, 16, 17, 26-32, 34, 38, 40 and 43-45 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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